Release of funds to Gram Panchayats

*530. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to release funds to the Gram Panchayats directly;

(b) if so, whether necessary mechanism to handle this scheme has been set up;

(c) whether State Governments have been consulted in this regard; and

(d) if so, what has been their reactions in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU) : (a) to (d) At present, under the Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY) of the Ministry of Rural Development, the funds are released to the Gram Panchayats through the District Panchayat (DP) or the District Rural Development Agency (DRDA). The question of flow of more funds to the Gram Panchayats is separately receiving attention.

Naga Peace Talks

*531. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Chief Ministers of the North-Eastern States have demanded that the negotiator for the Naga Peace talks be changed :

(b) if so, the reasons adduced in favour of the demand;

(c) Government's reaction thereto; and

(d) when the next round of peace talks with the Nagas are likely to be held ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI) : (a) to (c) There has been no demand as such but some suggestions have been made by the Chief Ministers of the North Eastern States in this regard. One suggestion is to appoint a senior person from the North East, who has knowledge of the region, as Government of India's Representative for Talks with NSCN (IM). Another suggestion is to appoint a 3-member Committee for this purpose. The suggestions have been taken note of.

(d) The peace talks are a continuing process and are held from time to time.